

Patent claims

1. A method for processing mass mailings by using sorting machines which have
5 at least one material input and a distributing device for distributing the mailings
at distribution points in accordance with the distribution information,
characterized in that the individual mailings (1) of a mass mailing are shrink-
wrapped at the sender in strips of film (4, 5), hanging together to form a strip of
bags, are dispatched hanging together in this way in a strip of bags and, at the
10 respective destination, are threaded as a strip of bags into the sorting machine by
a transport device (10) belonging to the material input, and are then separated
from one another by means of a separating device (15), and in that, after that, by
means of an acceleration device (16), the gaps between the film bags (8)
necessary for the further processing in the sorting machine are produced.
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2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, at the sender, in order
to produce a strip of bags, the mailings of the mass mailing are led one after
another between two endless film strips (4, 5) unwound from rolls (3) and
belonging to a packaging unit (7), in which they are shrink-wrapped completely
20 without subdividing the film strips.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the shrink-wrapped
mailings hanging together are stored in fan-fold form in appropriate transport
containers (9) and are transported to the destination.
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4. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the shrink-wrapped
mailings hanging together are stored in roll form and are transported to the
destination.
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5. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the strip of bags
with the shrink-wrapped mailings (1) is provided with perforations at the sides,
and the threading transport device (10) of the material input of the sorting

machines has transport gear wheels (12) which engage in the perforations.

6. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, following shrink-
5 wrapping, each film bag (8) is provided with an address sticker or imprint.
7. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that transparent films are
used.
- 10 8. A device for carrying out the method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that
the material input of the sorting machines has a transport device (10) for
threading the strip of bags with the shrink-wrapped mailings (1), a separating
device (15) for dividing up into individual film bags (8) having mailings, and an
15 acceleration device (16) for producing the gaps between the film bags (8)
necessary for the further processing in the sorting machine.
9. The device as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the threading transport
device (10) of the material input of the sorting machines has transport gear
20 wheels (12) which engage in lateral perforations in the strip of bags.